

114.53

PROJECT STATUS REPORT				REPORTING PERIOD March 1954	
1. CRYPTONYM		2. DIVISION OR BRANCH		3. COUNTRY	
a. Program	b. Project			Target	Base
	OBOPUS	SE-1		Albania	Greece
5. NAME OF CASE OFFICER			ROOM NO.	EXTENSION	SIGNATURE OF CASE OFFICER
[]			1313 J	672	
6. TYPE OF PROJECT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FI <input type="checkbox"/> PP <input type="checkbox"/> PM <input type="checkbox"/> SUPPORT					
7. STATUS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OPERATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> LIQUIDATING					
8. PERSONNEL ASSIGNED		O/S	U.S.	9. FY ALLOTMENT TO DATE	
U.S. - - - - -		17			
FOREIGN NAT'L - - - - -		64			
TOTAL		82			
10. FY OBLIGATIONS TO DATE					
[]					

11. Summary

Mission and Plan

Utilization of all available covert assets to exploit the resistance potential in Albania, undermine the Soviet power complex, develop a covert offensive in support of U.S. policy aims in the Balkans, and when feasible, to support a coup d'etat to replace the Communist regime with one acceptable to the West.

Summary

[] C/SE-1, returned on 18 March from a field trip which included visits to London, Rome, Athens and Istanbul.

Paramilitary

(1) Agent training continued during March although there were no paramilitary operations.

(2) Confirmed reports have been received that the basic identity document in Albania has been replaced with a new "passport". Examples of these papers have been obtained and it is hoped that agent teams infiltrated during 1954 can be properly documented in conformity with the new regulations.

Political-Psychological

(1) Following discussions by [] with OBOPUS field personnel and with MI-6 representatives in London, the NCFA was informed on 17 March that beginning 1 May financial support of the Committee will be materially reduced and that the Committee will be responsible for the administration of the funds allotted for its support. Under the new plan the newspaper Shqipëria will be published in New York rather than in Rome; all other propaganda material will be prepared in Athens; the CIA and MI-6 case officers will be withdrawn from Rome and all political and other liaison with the Committee will, as far as CIA is concerned, be in New York and Athens.

(2) The "Professor Group" of the Balli Kombetar Party (BK) continued its campaign to sabotage the NCFA. However, reports indicate that all other factions of the Albanian emigration favor the broadening and it is believed that the dissident faction will be unsuccessful in its attempts to break up the Committee.

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SOURCE/METHOD/EXEMPTION 3B2B

(3) A hearing

(3) A hearing of ex-King Zog's case was held on 4 March by the Egyptian customs administration. The tax officials stated that Zog's bank balance in Egypt was insufficient to cover the claim against him of LE 10,000 and requested they be allowed to seize other properties. The court granted a postponement of the case to 22 March.

(4) Successful propaganda leaflet flights were made on 17 and 19 March, during which both leaflets and copies of the Shqipëria digest were dropped.

(5) The fortnightly Committee newspaper Shqipëria was published on schedule in Rome.

(6) The clandestine radio maintained a regular broadcast schedule during March.